

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 10, 2003, set a three-month statutory period for response expiring September 10, 2003. Pursuant to the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), the period for response is extended to December 10, 2003. This amendment is therefore timely filed.

Before this amendment, claims 1-29 were in the application. The allowance of claims 1-8, 11, 20, 21, and 26-29 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1-27 are amended for purposes of clarification, to correct typographical errors, and to put said claims in conventional U.S. claim format.

Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on the grounds that the clean versions of said claims as amended by Preliminary Amendment filed April 17, 2002, contain underlined and/or crossed-out words. The rejection is believed overcome by the present amendment in which the underlining and crossed-out words that were inadvertently retained in the clean version of the Preliminary Amendment have been deleted.

Claims 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on the grounds that broad language followed by the term "such as" and then narrower language raises a question whether the feature introduced by such term is merely exemplary or a required feature of the claim. The claim language objected to has been deleted by the instant amendment, and accordingly, the rejection is believed overcome.

Claims 9 and 23-25 are likewise rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the phrase "in particular" makes it unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. The rejection is believed overcome by the present amendment in which the phrase objected to has been deleted.

Claim 22 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully point out that Claim 22 ultimately depends from allowed claims 5 and 6 through claim 19. No reasons are given for rejecting claim 19 and none are apparent. None of the language objected to in rejected claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 23-25 appear in claim 19, and hence, no basis is seen for the rejection thereof. It is therefore submitted that claim 22 in fact does not depend from a rejected base claim. Accordingly, claim 22 should be allowed.

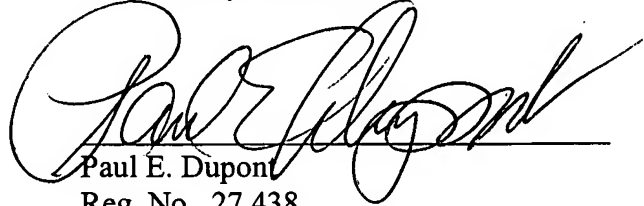
New claims 30, 31, and 32 are directed to the features recited in original claims 10, 12, and 13, respectively.

No new matter is introduced by present amendment.

Claims 1-32 are in the application as amended.

There being no remaining issues, this application is believed in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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